

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for smoothing and de-wrinkling a discrete fabric item comprising the steps of applying to said discrete fabric item an effective amount of an ultrasonic transmission fluid and concurrent with or subsequent to said application of said ultrasonic transmission fluid, applying a source of ultrasonic energy to said ultrasonic transmission fluid, wherein said source of ultrasonic energy is applied in a manner which avoids fiber-damaging heat which could scorch, shine or flatten fabric.
2. A method for smoothing and de-wrinkling a discrete fabric item comprising at least the steps of applying to said discrete fabric item a quantity of an ultrasonic transmission fluid which is from about 1% to about 200% the dry weight of said discrete fabric item and concurrent with or subsequent to applying a source of ultrasonic energy to said ultrasonic transmission fluid, wherein said source of ultrasonic energy is applied in a manner which avoids fiber-damaging heat which could scorch, shine or flatten fabric.
3. The method according to any one of Claims 1 or 2, wherein said ultrasonic transmission fluid comprises an ultrasonic carrier and optionally, an ultrasonic adjuvant.
4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein said ultrasonic carrier is selected from the group consisting of alcohol, water, and mixtures thereof.
5. The method according to Claim 3, wherein said ultrasonic adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of wetting agents, perfume, antibacterial agent, anti-oxidants, electrolytes, corrosion inhibitors, solvents, chelants, photobleaches, brighteners, hydrotropes, malodor control agents, and mixtures thereof.
6. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of placing said discrete fabric item on a surface that does not adsorb or dissipate the ultrasonic energy.

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12. The garment smoothing and de-wrinkling product of Claim 9, wherein said ultrasonic adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of selected from the group consisting of wetting agents, perfume, insect and moth repelling agents, antibacterial agent, anti-oxidants, electrolytes, polymeric dispersing agents, corrosion inhibitors, solvents, chelants, photobleaches, brighteners, hydrotropes, finishing agents, odor control agents, and mixtures thereof.

13. A process for restoring the appearance of fabrics by removing and/or restoring microfibrils to macrofibres of a fabric article comprising the steps of:

(a) applying an effective amount of an ultrasonic transmission fluid to said fabrics;

and

(b) imparting sonic or ultrasonic waves to said fabrics in a manner which avoids fiber-damaging heat which could scorch, shine or flatten fabric;

wherein said fabrics contains from about 1% to about 200% the dry weight of said fabrics of ultrasonic transmission fluid.

14. An ultrasonic de-wrinkling apparatus comprising:

a plate;

ultrasonic means attached to said plate for generating ultrasonic waves in said plate;

a housing attached to said plate having handle means for grasping said housing and moving said housing and said plate; and

means to prevent the generation of heat in said plate by said moving of said plate on said fabric.

15. The ultrasonic de-wrinkling apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said means to prevent the generation of heat is selected from the group consisting of pressure means, temperature means and electronic means.

16. The ultrasonic de-wrinkling apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said de-wrinkling apparatus further comprises at least one solution storage means associated with said de-wrinkling apparatus, said solution storage means being adapted to contain an ultrasonic transmission fluid; and at least one dispensing means mounted in said housing, said dispensing means being in fluid communication with said storage means, and is adapted to dispense said ultrasonic transmission fluid from solution storage means to a fabric surface.

17. The ultrasonic de-wrinkling apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said wherein said solution storage means is adapted to be removably mounted to said housing.

18. The ultrasonic de-wrinkling apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said solution storage means is mounted in said housing.

19. A method for smoothing and de-wrinkling a discrete fabric item comprising the steps of applying to said discrete fabric item an effective amount of an ultrasonic transmission fluid and concurrent with or subsequent to said application of said ultrasonic transmission fluid, applying a source of ultrasonic energy to said ultrasonic transmission fluid, wherein said source of ultrasonic energy is an ultrasonic de-wrinkling apparatus according to claim 14 and is applied in a manner which avoids fiber-damaging heat which could scorch, shine or flatten fabric.

20. A discrete fabric that has been smoothed and de-wrinkled according to the process of claim 19.

21. A garment smoothing and de-wrinkling product which smoothes and de-wrinkles garments without using fiber damaging heat which could scorch, shine or flatten garments comprising:

- (a) ultrasonic transmission fluid, comprising an ultrasonic carrier and optionally, an ultrasonic adjuvant;

- (b) an ultrasonic wave generating source for imparting ultrasonic waves onto wrinkles in said garments, wherein said ultrasonic wave generating source is an ultrasonic de-wrinkling apparatus according to claim 14; and
- (c) instructions for using said product comprising the steps of:
 - (i) applying an effective amount of said ultrasonic transmission fluid to said wrinkles; and
 - (ii) imparting ultrasonic waves to said wrinkles using said ultrasonic source in a manner that avoids fiber-damaging heat that could scorch, shine or flatten fabric.

22. A product for restoring the appearance of fabrics by removing and/or restoring microfibrils to macrofibres of a fabric article comprising:

- (a) ultrasonic transmission fluid, comprising an ultrasonic carrier and, optionally, an ultrasonic adjuvant;
- (b) an ultrasonic wave generating source for imparting ultrasonic waves onto the fabrics; and
- (c) instructions for using the product comprising the steps of:
 - (i) applying an effective amount of an ultrasonic transmission fluid to the fabrics; and
 - (ii) imparting ultrasonic waves to the fabrics using the ultrasonic source in a manner that avoids fiber-damaging heat that could scorch, shine or flatten fabric.